

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-19 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant adds new claims 20-25. Claims 1, 4 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,204).

Rejection of claims 1, 4 and 14-19 under § 102(b) anticipated by Fukuda

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable because Fukuda fails to disclose or suggest all elements of claim 1. For example, Fukuda fails to disclose or suggest checking whether all coefficients of all pixels in a predetermined region of the data block are equal to zero or not, in combination with other elements of the claim.

Fukuda fails to disclose or suggest any sort of predetermined region of the data block, in the manner recited in the claim. In the section of Fukuda cited by the Examiner, Fukuda merely discloses that one 8x8 block has 4x4 pixels which are non-zero (Fig. 10A), while the next block has 3x3 pixels which are non-zero (Fig. 10B). Therefore, Fukuda cannot possibly disclose checking the coefficient of pixels in a predetermined region because the variable size of the pixels which have non-zero coefficients, precludes checking a predetermined region.

Rather, the 4x4 pixels in Fig. 10A and the 3x3 pixels in Fig. 10B merely reflect the consequence of the disposition of the non-zero coefficients and the 4x4 or 3x3 pixels do not represent any predetermined region where any sort of checking is done.

As a consequence, Fukuda further fails to disclose generating filtering information on whether the data block requires filtering depending on whether the all coefficients of all pixels in the predetermined region of the data block are equal to zero or not.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 4, 16 and 18 are patentable for reasons similar to those submitted for claim 1.

Claims 15, 17 and 19, which respectively depend from claim 4, 16 and 18, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

To further claim the invention, Applicant adds new claims 20-25 which are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from their respective base claims.

Applicant rewrites the allowable dependent claims in independent form by including the subject matter of their respective unamended base claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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